

with all the love of novelty, show, and glittering exterior, with all the warmth of temperament, all the ardor of passion, and all the weakness of principle which commonly belong to the season of youth, is an experiment of which it is fearful to think; and every youth entering the city to be attended by a crowd of angels, he should fervently pray, 'Lead me not into temptation.'

We commend this subject not only to the youth of the country, but to those parents who are casting about how to advance the future wealth and standing of their sons and daughters. The conscience of a pious parent will require a very clear warrant from Providence for placing a child in those circumstances of peril with which, in a large city, they are sure to be environed.—*Esseguist*.

A Whole Saviour or No Saviour.

To make Christ in part a Saviour, is to make him in part a Saviour, and to ascribe salvation to something else as well as to him. All such satisfactions trench upon the honor of Christ's sacrifice, and pull the crown from his head to set it upon our own; or, at best, ascribe that in part to ourselves, which is wholly due to him; by which means more sufficient it is for without any addition, so much the more glory redounds to the sacrifice. He needs no more of additions to sweeten his offering, than he needed of cordials to strengthen and support him in the time of his suffering; they are rather more and stronger offered him upon his throne, as the Jews did in the time of his oblation upon the cross.—*Charnock*.

THE REFLECTOR.

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1847.

Foreign Correspondence.

Customs in Jamaica.

LETTERS FROM THE ASSISTANT EDITOR, No. 16, DEDICATED TO REV. WILLIAM HOWE, OF BOSTON.

Dedication of letters.—Methods of conducting business in Jamaica.—Blighting results of slavery.

We commence this epistle, (Feb. 20th.) cheered and refreshed by a package of letters from beloved friends. Though more than six weeks have passed since those of the latest date were written, each one has been perused with intense interest, and with a flood of joyous and grateful emotions. A friendly letter, fraught with desired information and with words of encouragement and affection, is to one in our country, like water in a desert, and bread in a famine. It gives strength to the heart, and makes glad the heart. How much more is it prized than its responses can be! It is pleasant when at home to hear from the absent and loved, but to know the value of letters, you must cross the stormy deep, and for two long months, not hear a solitary word, (as we have not,) even from those to whom your life is bound. Then will you know what those winged messengers are sometimes worth to a human heart.

This reference to private correspondence, reminds us of the vain attempt we have made, by dedicating our published letters, to intimate our grateful appreciation of the kind services which have been rendered us, personally, by friends at home. Alas, we shall never complete the list! We did not think, in the outset, of our owing love to such a number. Some of those who most honor, and to whom we are most indebted, are not in reserve for letters yet to be written; and then, there are many in different parts of the country who have done so much for the Reflector, and the influence of their own efforts, that we could easily find names to double the series, had we time to write so many letters, and our readers patience to peruse them. What shall we do? We can only keep on,—confining our inscriptions, as heretofore, to persons to whom we have felt not only a personal friendship, but for one cause or another, a sense of obligation. And as for those whom we love and do not name, let them be assured that were the correspondence continued, or had we time and strength to write to them directly, they would have the fullest assurance of the absent editor's remembrance and respect.

We propose in this letter to state some facts, showing the methods of conducting business by the common people of Jamaica. The everyday habits of the multitude exhibit as much want of economy and wise foresight, as do the plans pursued by foreign proprietors and their agents. For instance, the people in neighborhoods, fifteen, twenty, and thirty miles from Kingston, who, in the perpetual summer here enjoyed, and the influence of the sun and the fruits, are accustomed, as often as opportunity requires, to fill a basket with what they have for sale, and go in person, each one for himself and herself, on foot, to Kingston; conveying the load generally on their heads, but sometimes on the back of a donkey. In this way, nearly every day brings to market several representatives from every little neighborhood, within the wide circle of which Kingston is the metropolis. Families of all ages, as well as males, daily come to the market, each with a separate parcel; and many of them walk all night, pass the day here, and return the next night, without sleeping till they arrive at home. Of the loss of time, and the waste of strength, which this custom imposes upon them, they seem entirely insensible. Going frequently to town is so much a habit, and has become so much a pleasure, that nothing probably would induce them to exchange their commodities through country traders, or to unite their stores in the care of a single individual, and thus save days and nights of toil, which properly passed at home, would earn for them a much more than their present. But when the aggregate waste of physical energy,—the great perversion and loss of national strength, occasioned by these singular habits! No wonder the planters want an importation of working material, when half the people, half the time, are marching up and down the country, with loads on their heads!

Not only are vegetables and fruits brought and delivered in these small quantities, by a countless number of individuals. The milk is thus brought to town, every morning: cans or pails, with tin measures, are borne on the heads of milk-maids from door to door, all over the city. Wood is composed of small sticks, usually two feet in length, bound in bundles of perhaps two dozen sticks each. It is cut and trimmed, not with axes, but with cutlasses, often with broken swords or butcher knives, is usually conveyed on donkeys, and sold by the single bundle. Most families buy every day a day's supply, and this is a specimen of the manner in which all the domestic wants are supplied. It may be truly said that, in this respect, people in the West Indies take no thought for the morrow. At the Hotel d'Union in Jamaica, we had tea one day, and the quantity for each drawing was daily bought at the proprietor's. Salt fish, pork, butter, etc., are bought by most persons in the same way.

These habits greatly increase the expenses of living. Although fowls are raised with scarcely any expense, and there is no winter to diminish the supply of eggs, and the demand for eggs is great in market, they are sold for 37 1/2 cents per dozen.—There is no expense for hams, for curing hams, or feeding cattle, and cows and goats are numerous and of good quality, yet milk cannot be bought for less than 25 cents a quart. Mutton is from 20 to 40 cents a pound, and fowls are sold for a still higher price.

We often think of the opportunity which is here

furnished to enterprising farmers, for acquiring wealth, were they disposed to come hither, and proceed on the plans to which they are accustomed in the neighborhood of Boston and other American cities. We see not, nor can we learn from residents here, why good butter may not be made here as well as in the States, and we are told that the little which is made, and sold fresh, commands a price of 12 to 15 cents a pound.

Indeed, unless we greatly mistake, there are many fields of promise here, which industrious and thrifty Americans might improve to great advantage, though we do not say that we advise them to leave their own most happy country for the sake of entering them. It appears, for instance, that in all Kingston, with its 40,000 inhabitants, there is nothing like an ice cream and confectionary establishment, or a coffee saloon, so common at this sign in American cities; but dirty shops, on whose signs you invariably read, 'Licenced to sell Brandy, Gin, Rum, and other distilled liquors,' are found in every street, and at frequent intervals, on all the highways into the country. The people are complaining of their impoverished condition, and the oppressive taxation, but they cheerfully pay enormous sums for intoxicating drinks, which are not only needless, but positively injurious, to every department of the social system.

The customs which operate unfavorably to domestic economy and public property, are by no means confined to the country people. Slavery has laid the foundation of countless errors and evils, which are in a long period distilling West India society from those of countries where there has been little or no infringement upon human rights. In the towns almost everything is done by servants, and no idea can be formed by our readers who have never visited Southern countries, of their moderation and inefficiency. The domestic employed to cook, for instance, will do nothing else, however small the family served, and is terribly discontented if required to vary in the least from the regular routine of duty. The whole morning till nine o'clock, is yet more in a hurry to prepare a light breakfast, and the remaining portion of the day till five or six o'clock is occupied in preparing dinner. A small family of ordinary gentry, must have, at least, one male, and three female servants. Fortunately the wages they demand is not large, but it is certain that the service they all render, is not more than is often rendered by one active female in the families of America.

But it is proper that we remind the reader that the want of energy, enterprise, and economy, which is thus variously illustrated in Jamaica, is not peculiar to that island. Society in all tropical countries, has many features common, especially in countries where slavery has existed. The springs of action appear to be everywhere paralyzed. Doubtless several things have combined to produce this common paralysis. The climate has much to do with it. The little labor with which the mere physical wants of the great majority are supplied, is one cause of unthriftiness; but it is easy to see in almost all these peculiarities, the footprints of slavery. We have been reminded of the statements made by different writers concerning Mexico, and on recurring to some of those, are surprised at the numerous points of resemblance between the West Indian and our own observations in the West India Islands.

The reader cannot fail to be interested in two or three of these Mexican facts, especially at a time when the conquest of that country is with us, evidently, a very desirable object. M. Chevalier, who is reputed as eminently authentic and impartial, says:—

'The Mexicans are destitute of all spirit of enterprise, and of all energy of action. They are without any establishment in the country. A more than ordinary display of industry would excite the jealousy of the natives.'

The same writer says:—

'Mexican leather is very indifferent; paper is of bad quality and exorbitantly dear; the making of cutlery and hardware is scarcely attempted, and yet in the absence of any considerable traffic, and under the influence of a tropical sun, the iron and steel for culinary utensils is almost unknown, and a very few years ago, there was only one manufacturer of watches and optical instruments in the whole of Mexico.'

Another extract from M. Chevalier is exceedingly interesting:—

'The splendid road which during the domination of the Spaniards was constructed across deserts and precipices, by the merchants of Vera Cruz, to the sugar plantations of the interior, had the effect of the carelessness with which the public interests of the country are directed. During the war of independence, this road was cut up in various parts, and down to this day, the unfinished Mexicans have not replaced a single stone, nor filled up a single trench, nor even cut down one of the trees, which in the absence of any considerable traffic, and under the influence of a tropical sun, the iron and steel for culinary utensils is almost unknown, and a very few years ago, there was only one manufacturer of watches and optical instruments in the whole of Mexico.'

This account answers precisely to what our own eyes have witnessed in Hayti, and differs little from some of the customs in Jamaica which we have seen. One European writer philosophizes, on this peculiar tendency of people in the tropics to indolence. It is found, he says, that industry is uniformly proportioned to the strength of the motives by which it is occasioned, and that, wherever the ordinary necessities and comforts of life may be procured with little labor, the mass of the people are invariably indolent. And he says, that to suppose they should be otherwise, is to suppose what is contradictory and absurd. When tropical countries have been visited by the conquerors, and the influence of the European nations, and anxious to acquire a fortune, they have prospered. But when the influx of such parties has ceased, and there are no longer any of these extrinsic and adventitious motives to prompt to activity and enterprise, everything falls into a state of apathy and languor. So it is, he says, with Mexico.

But this is tracing effects to only one of several causes which have operated in most places to produce a general result. The *Dravid* West Indies are to be considered in a somewhat different light, and they present to the philanthropist's eye, a far more pleasing prospect. Notwithstanding the habits which slavery has engendered, their permanent deterioration is by no means to be apprehended. Their interests are controlled by high-minded and intelligent citizens, among whom are natives equaling in every respect, their accomplished brethren from England and Scotland. The colonies, therefore, as they now are by the home government, are to be considered in a somewhat different light, and they present to the philanthropist's eye, a far more pleasing prospect. Notwithstanding the habits which slavery has engendered, their permanent deterioration is by no means to be apprehended. 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